

1 Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) Ice Breaker Activity

Title of Activity: Classroom Web

Materials: Ball of yarn or string

Instructions:

1. Ask everyone to stand up and form a circle
2. One person holds the ball of yarn/string to start
3. The person holding the ball says his/her name and answers one question or interesting fact about themselves (story about their name)
4. While holding the end of the string, the person tosses the ball of string to someone they don't know

Title of Activity: My Family's Favorite Food

Materials: Pictures of Different Types of Food

Instructions:

1. Place pictures of 4-5 different types of food around the room. Such as Italian, Mexican, Chinese etc. The number of pictures may vary depending on the size of the group.
2. Ask people to stand up and move to the picture of their favorite type of food.
3. Ask people to share in their groups the different types of family meals.

Title of Activity: My Child

Materials: None

Instructions:

1. Ask parents if their child likes to play inside or outside? If the answer is outside, then please stand on the right side of the classroom. If the answer is inside, please stand of the left side of the classroom.
2. Parents talk in their groups about the types of activities their child prefers inside or outside, why they like inside or outside activities.
3. Ask parents if their child prefers to read or work with numbers? If their child prefers to read, please stand on the right side of the room. If their child prefers to work with numbers, please stand on the left side of the room.
4. Parents talk in their groups about why their child prefers to read or work with numbers.
5. Ask parents if their child is a night owl or an early bird? If their child is a night owl, please stand on the right side of the room. If their child is an early bird please stand on the left side of the room.
6. Ask parents to talk in their groups and share stories about why their child is a night owl or an early worm.

Title of Activity: Classroom Quilt #1

Materials: Paper/Drawing Materials

Instructions:

1. Inform parents that we are making a classroom quilt
2. Explain that each student has a section of the quilt with four squares
3. During each of the APTT meetings, you will be designing one of the squares for your child's section of the classroom quilt
4. For tonight's meeting, please write your child's name and draw a picture of him/her.
5. Please share the picture with your neighbor

Title of Activity: M&M Activity

Materials: Small individual packets of M&Ms

Instructions:

1. Pass out small packets of M&Ms or place one at each seat
2. Ask parents to open their bags and divide the candy by color
3. Count how many M&Ms for each color
4. Ask parents to share the following information based on the color of M&M they have the most. Share both if there is a tie.

Green—favorite food

Yellow—favorite movie

Orange—most memorable moment

Blue—"wild card" anything you want!

Title of Activity: Classroom Ball

Materials: Ball

Instructions:

1. Ask everyone to stand up and form a circle
2. Toss the ball to someone
3. Person who catches the ball says their name and something about their child, such as what their child likes about school
4. Toss the ball to someone different

Title of Activity: Starburst Game

Materials: Different color starburst – Red, Yellow, Orange and Pink

Instructions:

1. Ask everyone to stand in a circle
2. Pass a basket of starburst candy to the left
3. Ask people to choose a Starburst from the basket
4. Introduce themselves and answer the following based on the color of Starburst

Red – What is your favorite place to eat?

Yellow – What is your favorite hobby?

Orange – What is your favorite sport?

Pink – What is your favorite place to go?

Title of Activity: Candy Introductions

Materials: Bowl of Different Types of Candy

Instructions:

1. Ask everyone to stand in a circle
2. Pass around a bowl of candy
3. Ask people to introduce themselves, their child's names and what the candy represents about them

Title of Activity: What's In a Name?

Materials: None

Instructions:

1. Ask parents to form small groups of 3-4 people
2. Introduce themselves to each other
3. Share with each other why you chose your child's name

Title of Activity: Penny for Your Thoughts

Materials: Enough pennies for everyone. Choose pennies with different dates within the past 15 years

Instructions:

1. Place a penny at every seat or pass out bowl of pennies for everyone to choose one
2. Ask people to look at the date on their penny
3. Instruct people to choose an event that happened in their life during the year the penny was minted
4. Find someone in the room with the same year (or within a few years) and share your event
5. Go around the room, each partner introducing each other and sharing the event with the group

Title of Activity: True or False?

Materials: Piece of paper or Index Card

Instructions:

1. Ask everyone to write down one statement that is true about them and one statement that is false
2. Partner with a parent and read the two statements so people can guess which one is true and which one is false

Title of Activity: Let's Get to Know Each Other

Materials: None

Instructions:

1. Inform parents that the world of hot dog eaters is often divided into three categories:

Only Mustard

Only Ketchup

Both

2. Instruct parents to choose which group they belong in and join that group.

(Part of the point of the exercise is to see if parents form different groups based on their hot dog preference)

3. Once parents have divided into groups, ask them to introduce themselves and the name of their child(ren).